

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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Dr M goes to the rescue of Mukhriz

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday defended his son Mukhriz, saying vernacular schools should be integrated into the national school system.

"Basically, what he has said is true.

"If they stay in the same old format, it will be difficult for national unity to be achieved," the former prime minister said during a question-and-answer session with Multimedia University students at the Perdana Leadership Foundation.

Also present was his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is the university's chancellor.

Dr Mahathir said Mukhriz did not suggest that vernacular schools be closed down.

"The government is committed to having vernacular schools. But you are not bringing the people together and this will not contribute to national unity."

Mukhriz came under fire from various quarters, including from within the Barisan Nasional, for calling for an end to the current vernacular school format in order to facilitate unity.